

REMARKS**I. Status of Claims**

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 3-6, 8, 10, and 12 are independent and currently amended. By this amendment, claims 1 and 2 are canceled without prejudice and/or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kamiyama (JP '779).

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Nakamura et al (USP 6,390,041).

II. Allowable Claims

Claims 3-13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 1-2 are canceled and claims 3-6, 8, 10, and 12 are rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. In view of these amendments, the Applicants believe that upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 3-13 are in allowable form. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

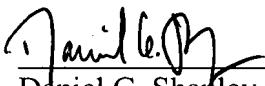
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing discussion, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition. Favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4420 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 5, 2007

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